

JOHN RANDOLPH, JR., HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the selection of John M. Randolph, Jr., C.P.A., as 2001 Community Leader of the Year by the Northeast Branch of the Arthritis Foundation. Mr. Randolph will be honored with a dinner on Sept. 13.

A well-respected business leader, John Randolph has also devoted countless hours to improving the community of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He came to Wilkes-Barre in 1959 to attend college and made the Wyoming Valley his home. A frequent speaker for professional and community service groups, John has often shared his financial expertise with the community. The list of his personal and professional affiliations and memberships is long and impressive.

King's College, from which he graduated with a bachelor of science in accounting in 1963, has benefited greatly from his service. He has served on the college's board of directors since 1992, served as vice-chairman of the board since 1996 and chaired the Jubilee Capital Campaign that raised approximately \$21 million over four years. King's awarded him the Kilburn Medal in 1999 for extraordinary service to the college.

He has also been honored with the Annual Trustee Award by College Misericordia, where he served as chairman and vice chairman of the finance committee. He has also served on the board of directors at Keystone College and on the President's Council at Wilkes University.

Mr. Randolph also was admitted to the Northeastern Pennsylvania Business Hall of Fame by Junior Achievement of Northeastern Pennsylvania and was awarded the prestigious Annual Community Service Award by B'nai B'rith.

Additionally, he serves on the boards of directors of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry, where he chaired the Project 2000 Task Force, and the Luzerne Foundation, of which he is also treasurer. He has also served as an elected member of the Council of Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants and as a member of the Group B Advisory Council of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Mr. Speaker, as indicated by his peers' selection of him for leadership roles, his professional achievements are impressive. He co-founded Parente, Randolph & Co., now known as Parente, Randolph P.C. and was instrumental in the planned growth of the firm to 10 practice offices with revenues in excess of \$25 million. When he retired from the firm in 1995, it was ranked as the 20th largest firm in the United States.

From 1995 to 1996, he served as senior executive vice president and treasurer of the Wyoming Valley Health Care System. Since that time, he has served as chairman of the board of directors and chief administrative officer of MotorWorld Automotive Group, Inc., as

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well as a special consultant to a variety of regional businesses.

John Randolph also served the nation as a member of the military for six months in 1964. He and his wife, Sharon, were married the following year. They have two grown sons, John III and Scott.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the achievements and good deeds of John M. Randolph, Jr., and I wish him all the best.

HONORING NASHVILLE METROPOLITAN PARK SYSTEM FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO TENNESSEE RESIDENTS

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the park system of Nashville, Tennessee, on its 100th Anniversary of existence.

The Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation, under the direction of Mr. James H. Fyke, currently oversees parks, historic sites, community centers, greenways, art galleries, golf courses, swimming pools, senior centers, and numerous other facilities which add to the quality of life for the 5th Congressional District of Tennessee.

Mr. Fyke and his staff are ardent supporters of the community by offering professionalism and vision as the parks system makes the transition into the 21st Century. The continued support of the Nashville Metropolitan Government over the years has been a crucial factor in the upkeep and maintenance of these properties, which benefit so many Nashvillians.

The Tennessee General Assembly approved legislation to enact and charter the Nashville Park System on April 13, 1901. That same year Mayor James Head appointed five individuals to the very first City Park Commission. On their first meeting, April 16, they began work with one mule, a handful of employees, one park, and no financial support whatsoever.

Nashville's first official park was Watkins Park, followed by Centennial Park in 1902. By 1903, the City Park Commission had an annual operating budget of \$25,000, and employed Robert Creighton as the first Superintendent of Parks.

It wasn't until 1912 that additional parks were added to the system. These included Hadley and Shelby Parks. The first community center was added to Centennial Park just four year later, while the first public golf course opened in Shelby Park in 1924.

One of the crown jewels in the Nashville Park System is the Warner Parks, which the city acquired in 1926. To date the Warner Parks, located at Old Hickory Boulevard near Bellevue, offer 2,681 acres of natural beauty for the public to explore and enjoy, along with a Nature Center, picnic area, two golf courses, hiking and driving trails, and much more.

Another significant landmark belonging to the Nashville Park System is the Parthenon, the only full-scale replica of the original in ex-

istence. It was originally created as a temporary structure for the Tennessee Centennial Exposition in 1897, reflecting the city's nickname as "The Athens of the South". It was rebuilt during the 1920s and officially re-opened its doors to visitors from around the world during the 1930s. The structure is nearing the conclusion of a \$13 million renovation and today houses many of the city's official art collections, while hosting visiting artwork from around the world. It is also the home to Athena, a 42-foot statue said to be the tallest indoor sculpture in the Western World.

The 1940s saw construction of the first gymnasium in Elizabeth Park Community Center and the first running of the Iroquois Steeplechase in Percy Warner Park. As the Park System celebrated its 50th Anniversary in the 1950s, the Cumberland Golf Course opened its doors as the first black golf course. However, by the end of the fifties segregation of Nashville's golf courses ceased for good.

The Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation as we know it today, first met on June 5, 1963. By 1976 the parks system had earned for itself an outstanding reputation and as such was selected as the most outstanding local agency in the United States. The seventies saw much activity as Greer Stadium, home of Nashville Sounds baseball, Fort Negley Park, Ice Centennial ice rink, Wave Country, and Hamilton Creek Sailboard Marina all opened to the public under the direction of newly appointed parks director Jim Fyke.

The now popular Riverfront Park was added in 1983, which has become the site of the city's annual Independence Day Celebration and numerous concerts and festivities. During the 1990s the following additions were made to the Nashville Parks System—the Centennial Sportsplex opened, the Metro Greenway Commission was created, Ted Rhodes Golf Course re-opened, Grassmere Wildlife Park was acquired, Metro Parks received the largest land donation in its history of 1500 acres, Shelby Bottoms opened, the Predators Ice Practice Facility opened, and many other improvements were implemented.

Most recently the parks system dedicated the new McCabe Golf Clubhouse and the VinnyLinks First Tee Golf Course and Learning Center in Shelby Park in 2000. Also, the countywide parks/greenways master plan will offer numerous improvements well into the 21st Century.

Today Metro Parks celebrates 100 years of existence with 93 parks, 9,350 total acres, 450 year round employees and 350 seasonal employees, as well as, 173 tennis courts, 85 ballfields, 14 swimming pools, 25 community centers, and 7 golf courses. The system also offers a sailboat marina, a wave action pool, 2 indoor ice rinks, 2 indoor tennis centers, a zoo, a nature center, a children's museum, a countywide greenway/trail system and a professional baseball stadium.

Metro Parks is to be commended for its legacy of excellence and service to the Nashville/Davidson County community for the past 100 years. May it continue to grow, prosper, and impact our region in the 21st Century. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.+